

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 04283 060719Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 VO-05 IO-13 EUR-12 CA-01
SSO-00 /047 W

-----010368 060724Z /65

O P 060625Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9780
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OLSO IMMEDIATE
INFO INS/CO WASHDC PRIORITY
INS LOS ANGELES PRIORITY
IN REGIONAL OFFICE SAN PEDRO PRIORITY
INS HONOLULU PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

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INS/CO PASS CODEP (COEXM)

INS/LOS ANGELES PASS DIDIR (DIEXM)

INS/HONOLULU PASS DIRIR (DIEXM)

INS/SAN PEDRO PASS ROCOM (ROEXM)

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: TWO NORWEGIAN FLAG VESSELS WITH 101 BOAT CASE REFUGEES HAVE
LOS
ANGELES AS NEXT PORT OF CALL

1. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORT, TWO NORWEGIAN VESSELS EN ROUTE
FROM INDONESIA TO LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, PICKED UP ONE
HUNDRED AND ONE (101) INDOCHINA REFUGEES IN OPEN SEA. ONE
VESSEL, 35,000 TON TANKER JOHANNESBURG STOVE, DIVERTED IN
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DIRECTION OF HONG KONG WITH HOPE OF OFFLOADING ITS 71 REFUGEES
HERE. OTHER SHIP, 10,000 TON FERHBROOK, REPORTEDLY DIVERTED
TOWARDS SINGAPORE TO LAND ITS 30 REFUGEES THERE.

2. NORWEGIAN CONSUL GENERAL CONFIRMED THAT BOTH VESSELS
ARE NORWEGIAN FLAG. JOHANNESBURG STOVE IS OWNED BY
LORENTZEN IN OSLO AND FERHBROOK BY FEARNLEY AND

EGER IN OSLO. HE WAS NOT ABLE PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT FERNBROOK, BUT TOLD US THAT HE ATTEMPTED OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM HONG KONG IMMIGRATION DEPT (HKID) FOR STOVE TO LAND REFUGEES HERE. PERMISSION WAS DENIED, DESPITE ASSURANCE THAT NORWAY COULD ACCEPT REFUGEES IF NO OTHER COUNTRY WILLING TAKE THEM. WHILE HKID WILL NOT ALLOW REFUGEES LAND HERE, STOVE WILL BE ALLOWED CALL AT HONG KONG TO PICK UP ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES, SUCH AS FOOD AND WATER, IF NECESSARY. NORWEGIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN PROCESS PASSING THIS INFORMATION TO VESSEL'S AGENT AND NORWEGIAN GOVT, BUT HE BELIEVES THAT IF EXTRA SUPPLIES ARE NEEDED, STOVE MIGHT PROCEED TO MANILA WHICH IS CLOSEST PORT TO PRESENT POSITION OF VESSEL.

3. IF HONG KONG IS NEXT SCHEDULED PORT OF CALL FOR SHIPS WHICH HAVE PICKED UP REFUGEES, HONG KONG WILL GRANT THEM FIRST ASYLUM UNDER USUAL UNHCR GUARANTEE. HOWEVER, IF HONG KONG IS NOT SCHEDULED PORT OF CALL, HKID NORMALLY WILL NOT GRANT SHIP PERMISSION TO LAND REFUGEES HERE. HKID CONFIRMED THAT ITS DENIAL TO STOVE IS BASED ON THIS POLICY. WHILE HKID HAS MADE SOME EXCEPTIONS IN PAST UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, IT SEES NO UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN THIS CASE. HKID BELIEVE THAT IF HONG KONG GIVES WAY ON THIS POLICY, IT WILL ATTRACT MORE REFUGEES THAN IT CAN HANDLE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. IN VIEW HONG KONG'S GENEROUS ATTITUDE TOWARDS BOAT CASE REFUGEES WHO ARRIVE BY JUNK OR ON VESSEL ON SCHEDULED RUN TO HONG KONG, CONGEN DOES NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD INTERVENE IN ATTEMPT HAVE HKID DECISION REVERSED.

5. NORWEGIAN CONSUL GENERAL INDICATED THAT HIS GOVT MIGHT APPROACH DEPT TO REQUEST THAT REFUGEES BE ALLOWED LAND IN U.S. SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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